

About That "Interview."

Mr. DeReign Seems to Ignore Some Very Important Facts.

While Mr. Russell's Supporters Find Much Fault With What Happened at Thayer, yet Their Organs Refuse to Publish the Resolutions so that The People May Judge for themselves.

The Kicker regrets that it must consume so much space in discussing matters that amount to absolutely nothing beyond an effort to belittle the people. The Kicker does not care whether Mr. Vandiver or Mr. Russell secures the congressional nomination from this district—provided the people, and not the politicians, are permitted to make the selection.

If the people want Mr. Vandiver, all right with the Kicker. If the people want Mr. Russell, all right with the Kicker. But the Kicker feels it a duty to give the facts, so that the people may intelligently judge for themselves.

During the holiday vacation the editor found time to analyze Mr. DeReign's "Interview" which recently appeared in a local paper, and finds that it is very much like the President's message—in that it contains many words, stripped of all surplusage the "Interview" can be narrowed down to the following contents:

1. That Mr. DeReign is the legal congressional committee man for Scott county.
2. That, according to the Thayer rules, a small county with only 600 Democratic votes has the same representation in declaring the result of the primary election as a county of 3000 votes.
3. That the present Democratic congressional committee is not to be trusted with declaring the result and could, and probably would, throw out counties after the fashion of the Louisiana Returning Board.

Queer contentions, indeed, from a man who has, for many years, declared by word and pen, that only Democrats are to be trusted; that "unscrupulous power," and that the "committee," as it is now styled, has all the powers of a Returning Board.

Is it not a little strange that none of the Russell organs have seen fit to publish the resolutions containing the rules governing the nomination of the next congressional candidate? Judging from the amount of noise made by the politicians and their organs one would imagine that these resolutions and rules were something out of the ordinary and would make interesting reading. Yet all have been content with declaring that it was a "snip," a "supposition," and a "Returning Board." As usual in such cases, the Kicker will supply the "long-felt want." Here is your "Returning Board" resolution at which Mr. DeReign revolts:

Resolved, That all returns of the vote for candidates for Congress shall be certified to the chairman of the Democratic county committee, by whom certified to the chairman of the Congressional Committee, who shall then call a meeting of the Congressional committee and lay the returns before them, and the candidate having the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner of the Democratic nomination in this district. If any contest shall arise in regard to the vote in any portion or portions of a district, the facts relating to the same shall be presented to this committee in open session, and all matters in dispute shall be settled upon and the result announced as promptly as possible.

There you have it, Mr. Voter—from the only paper in the county that has printed it. All the rest thought it best for the "party" not to print it. According to this resolution your county central committee—composed of three members from each township—will count the votes of your county, just as has always been done in primary elections since their adoption by the Democrats of Scott county. Then your county committee will certify that count to your chairman (Fraser), and your chairman will then certify the same to the chairman of the congressional committee, "who shall then call a meeting of the congressional committee and lay the returns before them, and the candidate having the highest number of votes shall be declared the nominee of the Democratic party."

Go! But isn't that "dictatorial?" Isn't that "unscrupulous?" Isn't that a "Louisiana Returning Board" for your whippers? Ah, dear reader, it is—but fortunately in this case it is intended that the people shall be the dictators, the whippers and the "Returning Board"—and not the politicians.

Mr. DeReign's contention that a county with only a few Democratic votes should not be entitled to the same representation in declaring the result as a county with a larger vote has not a leg to stand on. A congressional committee is on the same basis as the State committee—only on a smaller scale. A State committee is composed of one member from each congressional district—regardless of the size of the vote. A congressional committee is composed of one member from each county in the district—regardless of the size of the vote. A congressional committee is just the same as your county committee—except that congressional committees are composed of one member from each county, while county committees are composed of three members from each township—no matter about the size of the vote. Mr. DeReign to stand for another "Interview" and tell the people if it is not true that Kelso town ship, with its 140 Democratic votes,

has not as much to say in the counting and certifying up of the result of a primary election in Scott county as has Richmond township, with its 350 Democratic votes? We will also ask him if it is not true that, in all matters of contest or other matters brought before the Democratic State committee, a member from the strongest Republican congressional district has not the same voice as a member from the strongest Democratic district? And if he admits that it is so, then he might wind up by explaining why it should be different with the congressional committee?

As to the contention that Mr. DeReign is the congressional committee man for this county—that does not matter. The vote of this county could not have changed the result, and if Mr. DeReign had been recognized—either personally or by proxy—and voted against the resolutions adopted at Thayer, he would have misrepresented the Democratic voters of Scott county almost to a man! The eligibility of Mr. DeReign was a matter for the committee to decide. The committee decided that there was a vacancy in Scott county to be "supplied," and this decision is supported by the official manual of the State. Chairman Waters, of the congressional committee, wrote Chairman Fraser, of the county committee, asking that he fill the vacancy. Mr. Fraser refused to assume the responsibility, but wrote Chairman Waters that he did not hesitate to inform him that "the people of Scott county were overwhelmingly in favor of a primary." But Mr. DeReign insists that there is a constitutional question involved, and that a man has the right to "hold office until his successor is elected and qualified."

Since the supreme court is presumed to decide all constitutional questions, Mr. DeReign will have to appeal his case.

Mr. Russell says he has no objection to a primary. His friends say the same thing. Then what is the sum of it? Mr. DeReign says "I am in favor of primaries whenever they are free from a committee which has all the powers of a Louisiana Returning Board." Well, Mr. DeReign has himself resolved several nominations in primary elections where the "committee" had exactly the same powers as the one he now seeks to condemn, and it would seem that he is a little late in bringing on his "reform" movement.

At the Thayer meeting Mr. Russell was present and represented, by proxy, Dunklin, Pemiscot and Mississippi counties and he voted all these counties against the primary. Mr. Russell and his supporters refuse to admit that they are opposed to a primary, and while they waste much energy in condemning and denouncing the Thayer arrangement, they fail to intelligently point out the objectionable features, or to suggest rules and regulations that would be more equitable.

If we are to assume that a majority of the congressional committee is dishonest and corrupt, then no amount of rules and regulations would insure an honest and just declaration of the result. If so, we are to assume that the committee is honest, then the Kicker would be pleased to allow Mr. DeReign, or any one else, space for the purpose of outlining rules and regulations that would be more just and equitable to all concerned than those adopted at Thayer.

Figure This Out.
A banker sauntering home for his dinner found a \$10 bill lying on the curbstone. Of course he picked it up and took the money. In order to find its owner, while at home his wife said that the banker had sent a bill amounting to \$10. Only money he had with him was the bill which he gave her and she paid the butcher. The butcher paid it to a farmer for a calf. The farmer paid it to his clerk and the clerk owing the banker a note of \$10, went to the banker and paid it off. The banker recognized the bill he had found which up to this time had settled \$50 worth of debts. On careful examination he found the bill was counterfeit. Now what some of our financial friends tell what was lost in the transaction, and by whom, if any.—Concordia Press.

The Cob Pipe.
The glorious enchantments produced by the corn cob pipe are well known to the average lover of the weed, but few are acquainted with its origin. Thirty-five or forty years ago a Missouri wood carver, poor in this world's goods, turned out the bowl of a pipe from a corn cob and showed it to his family. Later he concluded to manufacture the pipes. He died a very wealthy man. One of his factories now turns out seventeen millions of cob pipes every year. The farmers, who live in the vicinity of the pipe factories, so it is stated, sell their cobs for more than they get from the corn itself. Several farmers in this vicinity gain an income of as much as \$4,000 a year from the sale of cobs alone.—Nashville News.

Bob Pearson in Jail Again.

This Time He Is Minus a Hand.—Arrested in Monroe County, Ill.

Bob Pearson, the "all-around man," is again in Benton jail. He is charged with forgery. This time he is charged with forging a note against Henry Sigmund, of Blodgett, for \$35.80, and one, against J. L. Huey, of Blodgett, for \$28 and having these notes cashed by P. J. Keeling, cashier for B. F. Marshall. Pearson has a checkered career. The first heard of him was in the northeast part of Scott county, some twelve years ago, where he bobbed up as a fifth leader and holiness preacher. He had quite a following and for a time was looked upon by his dupes as one inspired. His "flock" professed themselves sanctified and proof against sin and disease. Doctors of Medicine and Doctors of Divinity were alike barred. Pearson was all of it. Finally an epidemic of pneumonia set in and several of the "flock" passed into the beyond. This caused some of the more intelligent to question the Rev. Pearson's healing powers, and finally he was kicked out of the flock.

He owned a little farm property in the neighborhood and had the house and barn burned down, but not at the same time. There was an interval of several months between fires and the neighbors were very suspicious as to the origin of the fires.

In the mean time Pearson moved to Kelso and, after a time, opened up the "True Blue Store." Pearson claims to be a Republican of the blue variety, and therefore named his store the "True Blue." Somehow, he managed to get considerable credit in St. Louis, and so long as that held on Pearson prospered, but when the creditors tired of waiting and began to demand money in real earnest, Pearson quit business.

Next heard of him he was going over the county as a sort of "decoy duck" with the "general agent" of the Phoenix fire insurance company. Pearson "stood good" for everything the "general agent" said—and even more. Pearson has a pretty smooth tongue himself. After several weeks co-operation with the "general agent" Pearson was left in charge of the field, and his transactions were so questionable that his business declined to nothing.

His next venture was in the saloon business at Grayboro with a man named Williams. It had the reputation of being a very tough joint. Here the creditors again suffered. It was during this period that he committed the Hillman-Dohogne forgery.

The scene now changes to St. Louis, where he again engaged in the saloon business. While there, the Hillman-Dohogne forgery came to light, and he was arrested, tried and ought to have been convicted, but for some mysterious reason he was acquitted. Pearson then left the county and was not heard from until he bobbed up at Blodgett, some time ago, claiming to be an agent of the Franklin Life Insurance company, of Illinois, and it was about the first of last month that he forged the notes against Sigmund and Ware.

After cashing the notes Pearson disappeared. Upon examination of the notes Mr. Marshall discovered the forgery and immediately notified the authorities at Benton. They, in turn, notified the chief of police in St. Louis, and the lodging place of Pearson was soon located—but Pearson was absent. In a few days a press dispatch from Red Bud, Ill., to the St. Louis papers announced that Robt. Pearson, while hunting, had accidentally shot off one hand. The authorities telegraphed the sheriff of Monroe county, Illinois, to keep an eye on Pearson, and Marshall Ingram of Blodgett, was sent after him.

In the meantime Prosecuting Attorney Kelly was making a demand upon Gov. Yates, of Illinois, for requisition papers, and that Governor Dockery forward his demand to Gov. Yates direct. But instead of addressing the papers to the Illinois Governor, Gov. Dockery sent them to Mr. Ingram, at Waterloo, Ill. When the Blodgett marshal saw the array of red ribbon attached to the papers he thought he had all the authority necessary and proceeded after his man, whom he had located at Burksville, near Waterloo.

Mr. Ingram found Pearson comfortably seated in a hotel at Burksville, reading a newspaper and announced his business. Pearson demanded to know what authority he had in Illinois. Going down in his inside pocket after his papers Mr. Ingram answered: "I've got red tape enough here to take you." At the sight of the ribbons Pearson weakened and was brought to Missouri and landed in Benton jail Friday evening.

It developed that before leaving St. Louis on December 5th, Pearson took out an accident policy which, among other things, provided for the payment of \$1,750 for the loss of a hand at or above the wrist. On the 9th he shot his hand off just above the wrist, and it is an open question whether it was an accident, or whether it was done to get the insurance money.

Marshall Ingram speaks highly of the courtesies accorded him by the sheriff of Monroe county, Ill.

FOR SALE—A good farm of 102 acres—100 acres in cultivation. Good 2-story frame dwelling, granary, barn, plenty of good water and all modern conveniences. Within 30 minutes' drive of either Oren, New Hamburg or Benton. For further information apply at the Kicker office.

—C. & A. Matthews, Oren, are paying high prices for stock. Sell them your mules.

A Striking Incident.

During the A. R. U. strike several years ago, an employee of one of the roads whose department was not in the strike, gave aid and comfort to the several families of the strikers out of his meagre salary. The hiring spotters of the roads (those who serve for hire, serve the masters to enable them to crush other working people) reported what they had discovered, and the man was shortly laid off indefinitely. He had bought a little home on which there was a small mortgage. Leaving his wife and girl baby, with light heart he started out to find employment, little dreaming what the condition meant to him. He had always found employment was competent, and never dreamed of being out of work longer than it would take to go to some other general office, for such men as he were always in demand. He went from town to town, and at each was told by the railroad superintendent to come back in an hour or so and he would see what he could do for him. But at every return he was told there was no opening. He traveled far to the west, struck different roads, was out of money and was refused transportation. One day he happened to a superintendent whose kindly face aroused his confidence, and asked him, "What is the matter? I have applied everywhere, but no one will employ me, though they often needed labor I am competent to do?"

"Why, don't you know what the matter is? You are blacklisted, and you cannot get work on any railroad in the country." This was startling to the man, and he almost sunk to the earth as he thought of what that meant, especially as he had letters from his wife telling him they were having a battle for enough to keep from starving. He tried to get other employment, but with little or no success, when one day he got a letter telling him that the little girl was very sick, and that he had better come home. With no money in his pocket he left his way home, riding in box cars, with here and there a lift by some conductor who took the chance of his job by favoring him. Arriving at home he found the house was a barren place indeed, with nothing in the house to eat and the little girl dying for want of proper nourishment which had induced a fatal fever. She threw her arms around her papa and kissed him and told him she was going to heaven. It was in dusk of evening, and after the greeting, the little one asked if she should not say her prayers before she went to sleep.

Then she said: "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day Our daily bread—"

At this she stopped, knowing the pangs of hunger, and said: "Papa I am going to heaven now, and when I get there I will have Jesus send you all the bread you can eat," and she closed her little eyes and passed to the great beyond.

This wastold me by a friend of the man; yet railroad men will vote to have corporations own and operate the railroads instead of the public in which they would have a voice. It does seem incredible that any railroad man or any other man for that matter, would rather work for a corporation than for the public for the building up of great private fortunes than for the good of the nation.—Appeal to Reason.

Goes to the Penitentiary.

About a year ago Elmo Beachamp and two strangers known as the Parker brothers, associated themselves in a game of craps in a box car at Diehlstadt. The game wound up by Beachamp shooting both the Parker brothers. While at first the wounds appeared serious yet both recovered.

At the last October term of circuit court Beachamp was convicted of assault with intent to kill and sentenced to serve two years in the penitentiary. Being quite young he was paroled and J. F. Watkins, of Diehlstadt, and Wm. Langston, of Mississippi county, signed the parole bond.

All went well until Christmas times came around, when Beachamp participated in a general row at Charlestown and was arrested. He was then committed to the Penitentiary. Kelly and Sheriff Henderson took charge of the prisoner, and on Saturday a deputy sheriff from Mississippi county brought Beachamp to Benton and turned him over to Sheriff Henderson.

Judge Riley was notified and, upon his approval, Sheriff Henderson left for Jefferson City, Wednesday, accompanied by Beachamp.

Only Indigestion.

There comes a period in almost every school girl's life when she imagines herself in love. She is not very particular who she loves, most any young fellow will do, but she feels that she is fairly pining away with "love sickness" and studies to "cast sheep" eyes and write "spoon" notes. The most of them learn better as they grow older and realize that the symptoms they recognized as love, were simply the result of indigestion, a too plentiful supply of sickly sentimental novels, or too much moonshine and promenade and not enough home and house work.—Ex.

Tenderfoot (on Texas ranch).—"I should think it would be a lot of trouble for a man to pick out his own cattle from among so many."

Cowboy—"Oh, that's an easy matter. The trouble begins when he picks out some other man's cattle. See?"—Chicago News.

In the Southeast.

While Sheriff McFarland, of Pemiscot county, was on his way to the penitentiary with James Cico, the sheriff dropped his pocket book containing \$90 at Union Station, St. Louis. The prisoner picked it up, noticed it and put it in his pocket. After they had boarded the train for Jefferson City the prisoner handed the sheriff his wallet. The sheriff, of course, was surprised. Cico was sentenced to serve ten years for murder.

Perry County Republican: "The Scott County Kicker is one of the Democratic papers in the Southeast that is not dominated over by the 'ring.'" Bro. Huffer's Democracy can not be deceived, but he believes in fairness and honesty in politics, and will not lend his voice or influence to the "gang" which is responsible for the large amount of rottenness in the administration of public affairs in this state.

On a farm, near Kennett, Andy Matthews, aged 17, shot and killed his 15-year-old sister on Christmas eve. The weapon was a toy pistol with a blank cartridge, such as were in use about Benton during the holidays. The boy placed a stick about the size of a lead pencil in the barrel and entered the barrel. The boy thought the thing harmless.

A corporation known as the Pike Creek Development Co., has been organized at Poplar Bluff. It is stated that the object of the corporation is the "development of Butler county lands." The object is more likely to be the gobbling up of Butler county lands. The concern was organized with a capital stock of \$24,000.

The Jackson Cash-Book rises to remark: "The Democratic party in this State should never accept contributions from corporations." The Democratic party does not do it. It is the people who manage to keep themselves on top and imagine themselves the whole Democratic party. They must be gotten rid of—and the sooner the quicker.

The Dunklin county Democratic committee has called the primary for the selection of county officers for April 19, and the congressional primary for July 12. Will the Dunklin county papers please explain why it is necessary to have two separate and distinct primaries in that county when the whole matter could have been settled in one?

Dunklin County Mail: "The Scott County Kicker, Phil Huffer's new paper, fully justifies its name and amply sustains the editor's reputation. But it is a good paper, honest and fearless, and evidently appreciated by its constituency. Would that there were more to some extent like it."

What mysterious power was it that stopped the proceedings to recover the school lands in the various Southeast counties from the land grabbers? Will the State Superintendent of Schools please answer this question? Perhaps the Hon. Henry S. Phillips might give us a little light on the subject.

In Iron county the county court is examining the books of all the county officials, and the Van Buren Local insists that this should be done in every county, and adds: "There is not a business concern of any magnitude but has its annual overhauling of the books in all departments."

Jackson Herald: "In another column you will find a stinging editorial from the pen of that able and fearless writer, Phil Huffer, editor of the Scott County Kicker. Huffer is a man that says what he thinks, even though it does not please the Democratic bosses."

Harry L. Coffman, son of the late Dr. Coffman, and Bulah C. Porterfield, daughter of Dr. Porterfield, all formerly of Commerce, were married at Cape Girardeau on December 26. On the following morning the newly married couple left for St. Louis and Chicago.

Last week the Mississippi county recorder issued marriage license to the following from Scott county: Wm. Colbert and Miss Annie Huey, Blodgett; Henry Quillman and Miss Martin Baker, Sikeston; H. C. Northcott and Mrs. Minnie Hart (not given).

The editor of the Iron County Register took a fresh cheer of tobacco and then wrote: "The lesson of the Civil war case is that a party organized to fight monopoly cannot, with safety, draw the sinews of war from monopolistic sources."

A Perryville boy got too close to a "toy pistol and a blank cartridge" and now he has a lacerated hand. The sale of these things ought to be suppressed. They are dangerous.

At Pascola, in Pemiscot county, Charles Spiva shot and instantly killed Greely Dene. Spiva is in jail. Dene leaves a wife and four children. Spiva is single.

The next legislature would move in the right direction in reducing the Warehouse and Railroad Commission to one.—Cape Progress.

Just begin the last word of your paragraph with an "m" and you will have it better.—Marble Hill Press.

Prof. and Mrs. Nelson B. Henry, of Fredericktown, celebrated the 25th anniversary of their marriage on the 27th ult. Many presents were offered by friends.

The editors of the Morehouse Post and Fredericktown Democrat-News got a square meal Christmas. They were "invited out."

Some 5,000 people have been engaged in pearl hunting in Black River during the past season, and it is said that they realized over \$200,000.

Charles Jarrett and Miss Ora Bennett, of Caruthersville, were married at Belleville, Ill., last August and kept it secret until Christmas.

Jefferson City girls are not good cooks, slightly declared a more or less envious North Missouri editor. And then he exploits this alleged instance in support of his allegation: A young woman at the capital who is soon to be married went into the kitchen recently to learn how to cook. Her mother told her to fry some potatoes. In a few minutes she had found her daughter, along with her skin and all, and dropping the pieces into a frying pan.—Ex.

A Chicago firm has taken at par the \$15,000 bonds voted by the people of Doniphan for the erection of waterworks.

In the Ripley and Dunklin county primaries the voters will express their choice for United States Senator.

The H. D. Williams cooperative plant at Poplar Bluff was totally destroyed by fire recently.

Ripley county Democrats will hold their county and congressional primary on March 15.

The accidental discharge of a shot gun seriously wounded Joe Bradshaw, of New Madrid, last week.

R. F. Mitchell, circuit clerk of Pemiscot county, died on the evening of December 26, aged 33.

The business portion of Paxico was destroyed by fire last week.

At New Hamburg.

The holiday season is over and our people have settled down to take advantage of the possibilities of the new year. On the whole, our town has been very quiet. Christmas services were well attended and at midnight the new year was ushered in with the changing of all the bells. This was accompanied by serenaders with string and vocal music.

If you conclude feed is too high to keep your mules, C. & A. J. Matthews, Oren, will pay you all they are worth.

Sister Dominica returned, Tuesday, from a visit to East St. Louis, where she met her father and sisters for the first time in four years.

Miss Katie Schulte, who spent the holidays with relatives and friends at Fredericktown, has returned.

Farther Holmbocher was among our visitors Monday.

Now that Santa Claus has come and gone, schools will resume operations Monday.

Mr. Chas. Grojean and son, Theon, returned from a visit to Charleston Saturday.

Commerce.

All these personages visited Commerce during the holidays: Gillispie and Gallener, Vienna, Ill.; Dick Finley, J. P. Ranney, Louise Ranney, Luta Gibbons, Alma McKnight, Sikeston; Clara Rider, Cape Girardeau; Allie Moore, Charleston; Sherna McPheters, Benton; Misses Marshall and Harris, Morley.

Dan Steele, formerly a resident of Commerce, now connected with the St. Louis fire department, met with a serious accident Tuesday. While fighting fire he stepped through a hatchway and fell eighteen feet, alighting on his head and shoulders. When found he was unconscious.

Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Ranney Beardslee, Misses Jones and Fannie Ross attended the wedding of Miss Bulah Porterfield and Harry Coffman at Cape Girardeau on the 26th ult.

Jeff Barton, wife, baby and son, of Mayfield, Ky., visited his mother and sister and friends around about here during the holidays.

Virgil Anderson, Alma DeWint and Floy Henderson are out-of-towners this season, spending holiday vacation at home.

Mrs. Lizzie Anderson gave a supper New Year's eve to the little folks. They had a good time and lots of "goodies."

The river is clear of ice at this point and falling. No boats running. The ferryboat resumed operations Monday.

Ed Dally, loss engineer at the Johnston Land Co.'s log mill spent Christmas week with homefolks.

A man on the move sold a span of horse shadows Monday to Henderson for \$35, wagon included.

The Christmas tree at the city hall bore the usual variety of varicolored fruit.

At Kelso.

On New Year's eve night our town was enlivened by masked serenaders. They numbered about thirty-five and represented various nationalities. It was a jolly crowd and caused much merriment.

Dave Meluz is still a very sick man. Dr. Williams lined an abscess on his leg Tuesday and it is to be hoped that his condition will now improve.

Frank Seyer carries his head in a sling—the result of a turkey hunt. A limb fell on him.

Railroad surveyors have been at work Southeast of town, running a line to Grayboro.

Barney Baudendistel and family were here the first of the week visiting relatives and friends.

Hunters from St. Louis and other sections are in the neighborhood looking for game.

Phena and Helen Hoefer, of the Cape, spent Christmas with papa and mama.

Leo Dohogne and Will Burger, who are off at school, spent the holidays at home.

Now that the new year is upon us, let us all resolve to read the KICKER. The recent cold snap injured wheat considerably in this locality.

Our mill runs steady and turns out the very best of flour and meal.

Mike Enderlee is still confined to his bed.

Morley.

The oyster supper given by the tribe of Ben Hur last Saturday evening was quite a success, both socially and financially.

Quite a number of St. Louis sports boarded the train here this week, homeward bound, after a week's hunt around Commerce.

A much agitated question has a nigger got a soul? Ask Lon Williams and Dick Hank.

Shoony Harris, Jim Hunter and others saw the old year die and the new year born.

A protracted meeting is in progress at the city hall, conducted by Revs. Reeves and Lightfoot.

If business is really a disease, what a lot of sick people there must be who don't try to be cured.

John Hutchins of the Cape was in town this week, picking up trade for his home.

Miss Pattie Gupton, of Blodgett, visited friends here this week.

The recent cold snap damaged wheat to a considerable extent.

Oren News Notes.

Miss Vernie Harrison is visiting Mrs. Laura Query this week. Her home is in Bloomfield.

Mrs. Winchester of Kirksville has been visiting her brother, Elmer Joyce, Miss Ada Joyce has been visiting the family of Mrs. Bryans.

The entire amount of Christmas trees were very largely attended and everyone seemed to enjoy them.

Messames Harris, Rockwell and Clemson visited Mrs. T. E. Tomlinson and helped to devour an elegant Christmas dinner. There, being also present: Mr. and Mrs. Leslie, Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty, Mr. and Mrs. Earls and Mrs. Carl.

The Tribe of Ben Hur will have an entertainment and supper at the lodge hall January 7th, 1902. They have been making extensive preparations and everyone expects quite a royal repast.

There is to be a musicale at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Coffman January 8th at 7:30 p. m. Program as follows:

Woodland Whispers—Miss Marie Friend
Mary's Wail—Miss Johnnie Metz
The Silent Ride—Miss Clara Burroughs
(To be played with silver hand bells)
The Rock Waltz—Edith Harris
Robins Return—Miss Jennie Clemson
Silver Bells Polka—Miss Edith Trunkhoff
The Silent Ride—Miss Clara Burroughs
First Love Waltz—Mrs. Ferguson
Blue Bird Echo—Miss Winnie Rockwell
Flower Song—Miss Verlie Tack
Questions on musical terms and the judge's decision rendered by Prof. Scott.
Song—Prof. Scott
Awarding of a Polka of Music for the pupil who has made the most rapid progress.

AROUND-ABOUT.

New Year's morning our business men discovered that "the boys" had been at work during the night. All doors were barricaded with goods boxes, chicken coops, wagons, and other street furniture. Keyholes were "plugged" and doors and shutters wired. S. P. Finley, our ex-mayor, found the barber's sign in front of his saddle shop, and his doors fastened with telephone wire.

Coda Walker, J. M. Spradlin and A. C. Anell all of Commerce township, were in Benton Tuesday taking in the sights. Among other things they viewed the interior of the Kicker office.

James W. Armstrong and wife, of Vanduser, spent several days in Benton during the latter part of last week. Mr. Armstrong will engage in the mercantile business at Vanduser.

Prof. and Mrs. J. H. Goodlin, and son Jim, of Sikeston, and Mrs. A. Lynch and Chas. M. Wyle, of Commerce, took Christmas dinner with Mr. and Mrs. DeReign.

Mrs. Stedley Marshall, of Crowder, and the Misses Adell and Estella Harris, of Morley, visited Mrs. T. C. Campbell, at Commerce the first of the week.

H. C. Bryant has sold the hotel property back to James Walker. Mr. Bryant will move to Vanduser, where he has bought property.

James P. Ranney, of Richwoods, was in Benton Wednesday exchanging New Year's greetings with his many friends.

Our teachers were absent during the holidays. Prof. Starnes and Miss Gladis spent their vacation at Millerville.

Mrs. J. S. Freeling and daughter, Cleopatra, took dinner with Mrs. C. D. M. Gupton, at Morley Tuesday.

Thos. N. Dickerson, of Richwoods, put in an appearance at Benton on New Year's day.

Thos. F. Hinkle and Z. M. Wood, of Oren, were among our visitors Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Roeder spent the week in Farmington among relatives and friends.

Miss Luta Gray, of St. Louis, is here visiting her sister, Mrs. C. A. Leedy.

O. S. Lackey, of Commerce, was here Wednesday.

Miss Sherman Mc